



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

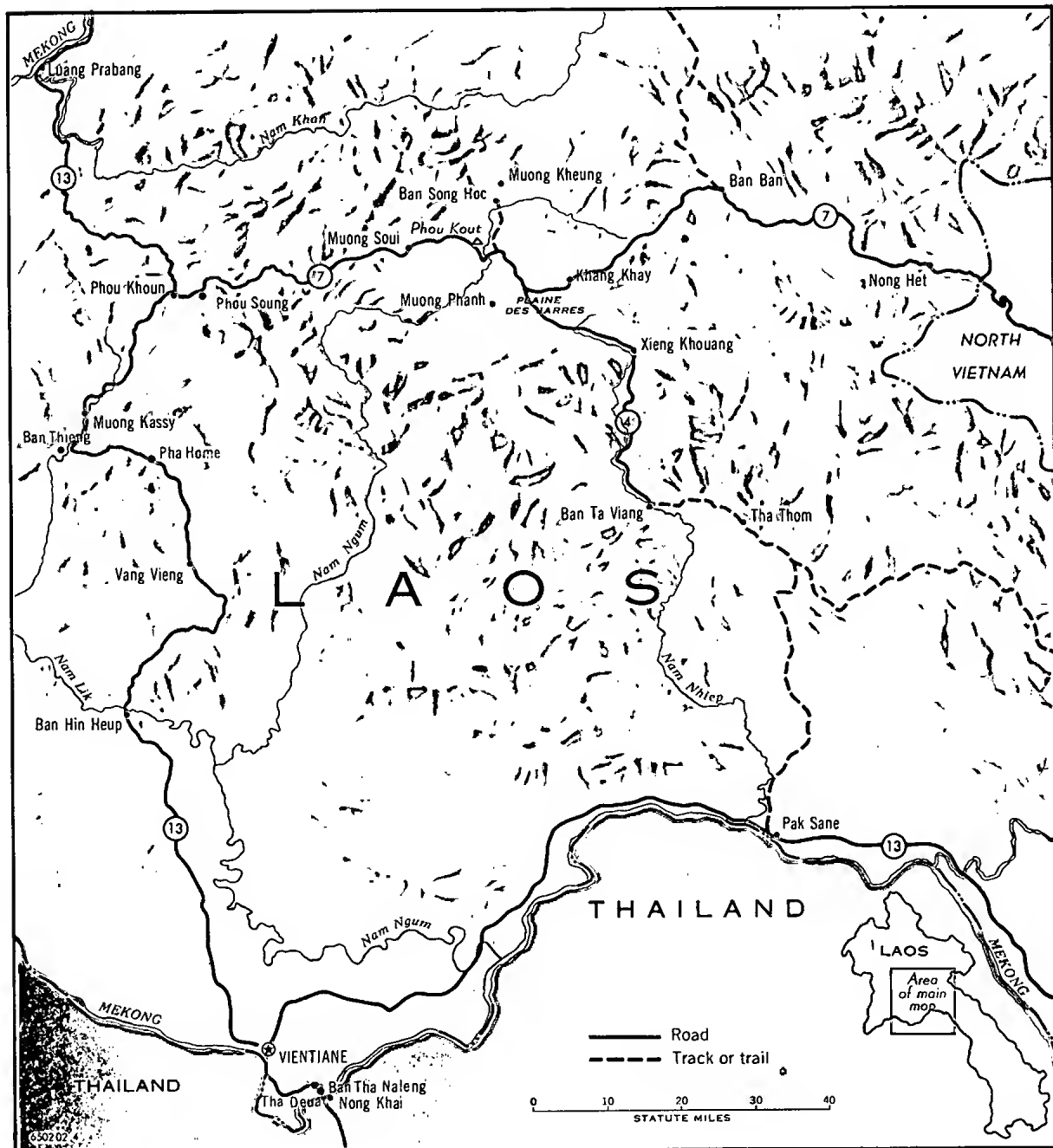
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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3 FEBRUARY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
3 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Laos

General Phoumi and security chief Siho made their move for control of Vientiane last night. This involved considerable fighting in and around the city. By this afternoon forces loyal to the government had apparently won out.

Siho and Phoumi have disappeared. Phoumi may have escaped east to Pak-sane in hopes of support from the garrison there. However, after his debacle in Vientiane he may find this difficult. (See map.)

Communist forces have not so far taken advantage of this turmoil, but they may not have had time yet.

2. South Vietnam

Khanh continues determined to ensure himself control of the new government, and he is now reported planning to have himself declared Chief of State. His moves are arousing increased resentment and alarm among various factions, including the generals. It seems likely that his opportunism will lead to more upheavals. A discussion is at Annex.

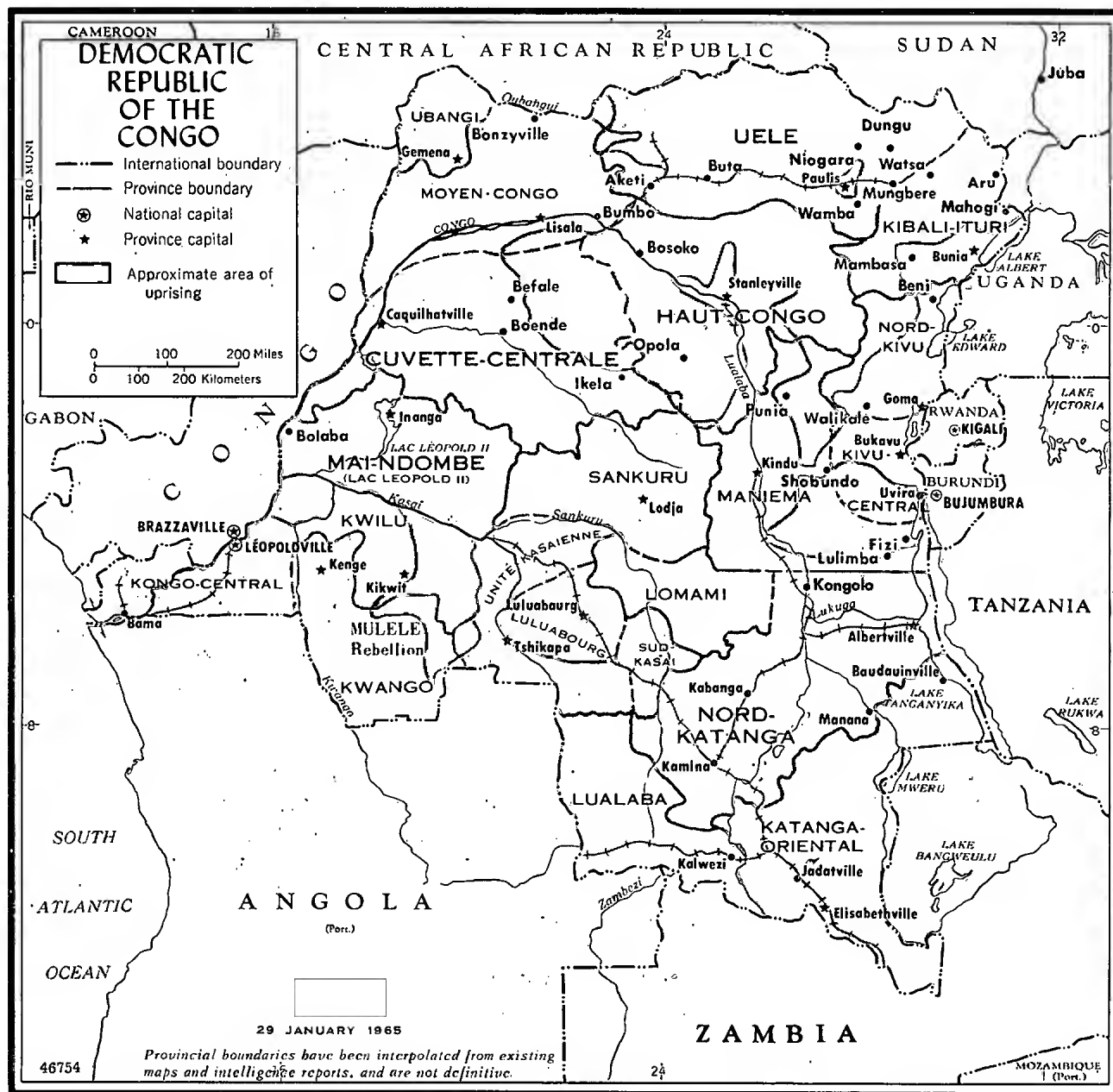
3. USSR

Premier Kosygin leaves early tomorrow for Hanoi, via Peiping. Reports that he will stop over for talks in Peiping are unconfirmed.

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the Pravda article of Sunday welcoming the President's State of the Union remarks about US-Soviet relations was in fact intended to soften the impact of Kosygin's trip on the US.

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4. Indonesia

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5. Congo

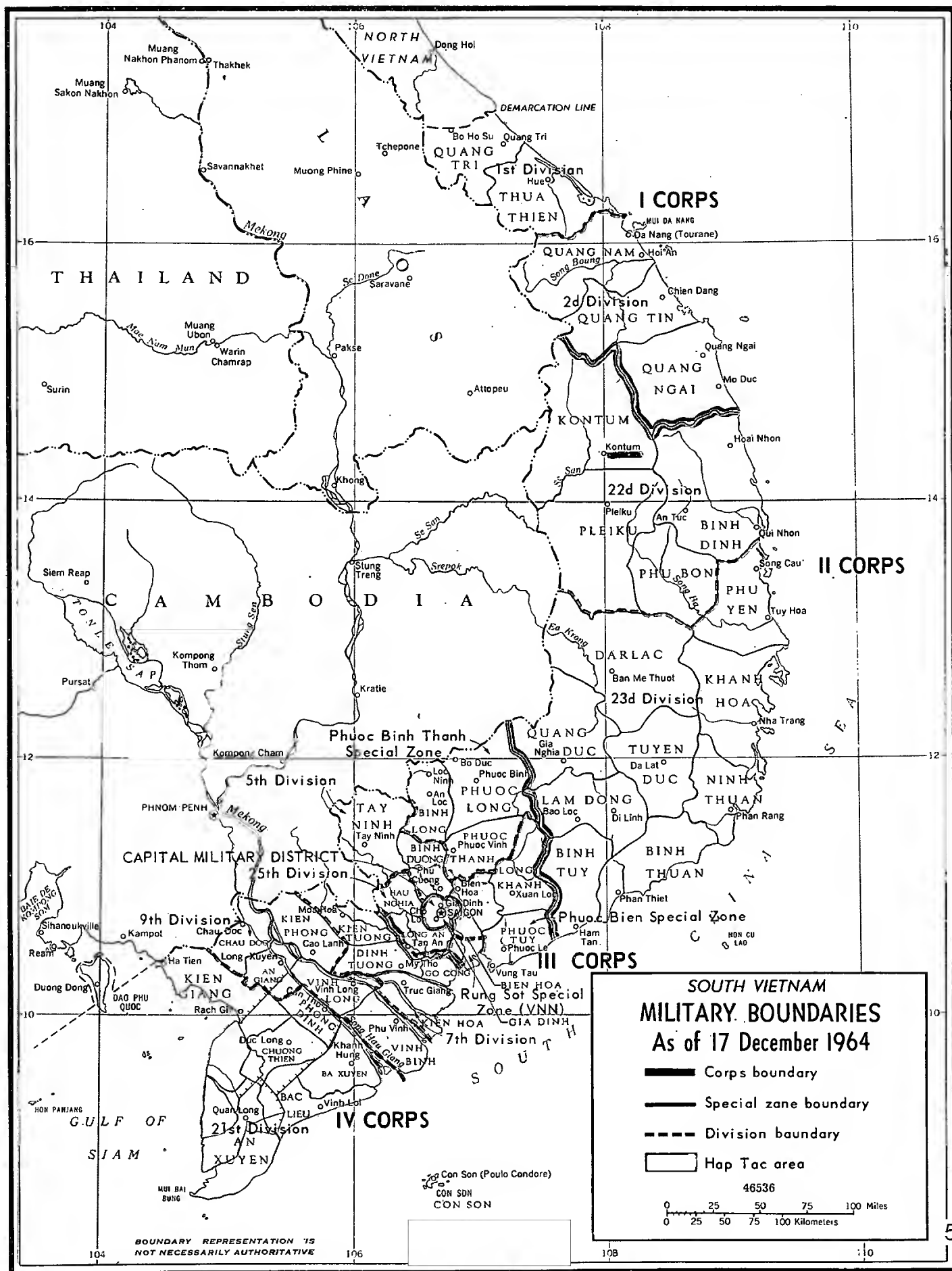
There are now reports that several hundred "Arab" soldiers have been seen in the southern Sudan. Also, a few Ugandan regulars apparently fought beside the rebels in a recent engagement in northeast Congo. (See map.)

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6. USSR

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ANNEX

The Situation in South Vietnam

Some of General Khanh's critics seem convinced he is bent on a neutralist settlement with the Communists. General Cao, a Catholic and former corps commander, now a staff officer in Saigon, has told the embassy that Khanh is working with the Buddhists to this end. Cao says Khanh will take the first move this Friday by asking the Armed Forces Council to name him as its choice as the new Chief of State.

Khanh may not be able to get this from the increasingly distrustful generals.

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So far, however, the generals have appeared unable to work together to thwart Khanh.

Ambassador Taylor has commented that if Khanh should succeed in establishing himself as Chief of State, he would still have the problem of keeping both the Buddhists and the generals in line. He thinks this is a nearly impossible requirement that would probably mean continued semi-anarchy.

The Viet Cong have maintained their New Year "cease-fire," but the possibility of a dramatic Communist military move designed to worsen the political pressures in Saigon is always present.

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